A True Relation OF A YOUNG MAN

About Seventeen Years of Age, who was ſtruck Dumb for the ſpace of Twenty Four Hours, Becauſe he would not believe what was ſaid unto him.

By *THOMAS ASTRY.*

WITH ALLOWANGE.

LONDON,

Printed for the Author, living near the great *North Door* in S. *Pauls Church-Yard*, 1671.

25276.43.27 *

HARVARD COLLEGE
SEP 30 1910
LIBRARY.

Lane fund

A

True Relation

Of a Young Man about Seventeen years of Age, who was ſtruck Dumb for the ſpace of Twenty four Hours, becauſe he would not Believe what was ſaid unto him.

Reader,

I Have a ſtrange thing to acquaint thee withal, concerning my Son; which was made known to him the 20th day of *September* 1671. And and it is as true as it is ſtrange; the Lord hath been working ſo powerfully upon my heart, that I am conſtrained to give the world this True Account, and it is likely to be handed out unto thee by an unworthy Servant, and alſo by a very weak hand; but it doth come from a very warm and enlarged

heart; For the Lord hath ſaid, that his ſtrength is made perfect in weakneſs, and hath wrought my heart into ſuch a frame, which doth encourage me that he will aſſiſt me to make known unto thee the truth, and nothing but the truth, ſo far a, the Lord hath made it known unto me; And whoſoever thou art that read theſe lines, I earneſtly begg it of the Lord, that thou mayeſt believe theſe truths: And that thou mayeſt not be unbelieving; For it was for Unbelief that my Son was ſtruck Dumb, as I ſhall give thee an account at large hereafter,

Only, I ſhall deſire in the firſt place to give thee an Account what he wos, which may be anſwered in theſe words; That he was a Diſobedient, Stubborn, and undutiful Child, for which my heart was much alienated from him: The following Acconnt will ſatisfie thee; Inſomuch that I had given him over for loſt, for ever having any hopes or Comfort from him.

If Father and Friends cannot prevail, we are apt to give ſuch a Child over for loſt for ever; But bleſſed be God, He did not give him over, but meets with him by a ſtrong hand, and by an Almighty power; And if he ſhall Work, none ſhall Lett; If He ſpeak but the ward, the moſt Rebellious ſhall be made willing to come in, and cloſe with the Lord Jeſus upon his own Termes. For he ſaith, that He hath Guifts laid up even for the moſt Rebellious; as in the 68. Pſalm. and the 18. Ver. *Thou haſt aſcended on high; thou haſt led Captivity Captive, thou haſt received guifts*

for men; Yea, for the rebellious also that the Lord God may dwell among them. Let not Truth be slighted, although they come to you in a very plain Dress; embrace them, and the Lord work it powerfully upon thy heart, as it hath been upon mine; and if thou shalt receive any good by it, give God the Praise and Glory of it, and *I* have my end and aim in it; And I fearing that *I* shall neither have time nor strength to give every one a particular account by word of mouth, *I* have thoughts to have it Printed, whereby *I* might give every one satisfaction; that may come to make enquiry into the truth of it.

MY Son going to School to *Christ's Hospital*, there were 10 Boyes sent to the *East-India*, (as he told me) and ever since he hath had a mind to go beyond-Sea; He hath asked when *I* would put him forth *Apprentice*? and *I* told as soon as *I* could provide my self with an *Apprentice*, then you shall go as soon as *I* can provide a *Master* for you; *I* cannot tell how to spare you before *I* have an *Apprentice* my self; *He* also knew that *I* had no body

body to do the leaſt kindneſs for me : He ſaw that *I* was ſickly and weak, ſo that in my thoughts, and in the Opinion of others, that *I* ſhould not recover; But the Lord bringeth to the brink of the Grave, and raiſeth up again, bleſſed be name of the *Lord* : But my condition was not at all conſidered or minded by him. There was a friend of mine that did give him good Councel, as he had others that did the like Office of love; and ſaith, that he ſhould be a dutiful Child to me, and give me content; He alſo telling him that *I* ſhould be willing to do any thing that might be for his good; and if he were more minded to go to *Sea*, than for a Trade here, *I* ſhould be willing to it; he replyed to my *Friend*, *I* ſhould be glad to hear my *Father* ſay ſo; *I* caſt my eyes upon him, and ſaw tears run down his Cheeks; ſo *I* ſaid unto him, be a good Child, and as ſoon as *I* have an Apprentice, *I* ſhall be willing to place you out, for your good, and that with ſpeed. *I* being a little better in health now, than what *I* had formerly been; ſo not long after he commits a fault, and *I* thought he did deſerve to be corrected for it, and *I* did ſo; and after *I* gave him the *Key* of my *Lodging-Chamber*. *I* being then at my Shop, they being diſtant from each other, bnt he did nor go home, but went below the *Tower*, and there he croſt the water, and that night he went as far as the *Half-way-houſe* towards *Graves-end* by the *Thames* ſide; and going into the *Houſe*, he called for a Pint of *Beer* or *Ale*, and ſome *Bread*, and while his ſtay there to refreſh himſelf, he falls into diſcourſe with two Hoy-men as they proved after;

and

and in his Diſcourſe enquires what Ships were going out; they demanded what Ships did he lack? he told them any Ships that were going to *Virginia*, or *Jamaica*, or any place to the Weſtern Plantations, for he had a great mind to travail, and this was in *Septem.* 1669.

So they ſeeing him in good Apparel, and perceiving his deſign, they made a ſtrict enquiry of him what he was, ſuppoſing him to be an Apprentice; and further, what Friends he had, and where they lived? he told them, his Father was living, but his Mother was lately dead; Theſe two men being bound for *Feuerſham* in *Kent*, to fetch Timber, they agreed to take him with them; and at their return, to deliver him to his Father, ſo he went aboard with them, their Veſſel lying by waiting for the Tide; but their Voyage being longer that time, than what was uſual, it being above a month before their return; in which ſpace of time I laid wait all about the Citie for the diſcoverie of him, and went twice to *Graves-end* to ſearch ſome Ships that lay there, and beyond, and all other Ships that were outward bound for *Virginia*, *Jamaica*, or any of the Plantations that were in the River; and I being both very wearie, and doubtful of hearing of him, I was reſolved to deſiſt from ſearching any more at preſent: ſo after this, the Hoy returned, and the Man ſent his Wife to me according to his firſt reſolution? who enquiring if I had not had a Son gone from me? I anſwered, I had; ſhe replied, if you will go with me as far as *Wapping*, you may ſee him; which news was very welcom to me, for I

and

had been at a great expence of *Monie*, time, and trouble; for by water, up, and down, in and about the Citie, *I* believe 200 miles at least; and during his absence, *I* had no bodie but my self to do any thing in my Trade; so when *I* saw him, *I* chid him for his disobedience, yea my bowels earned to him; He was amased to see me, for it was upon a sudden that *I* went down to *Wapping*, immediately after the Hoy came to the Wharf; so I took him home with me. He staid with me all the next Winter, and the *Spring*; and in the Summer-time towards Harvest-time, he takes his opportunity on a Sabbath day; I being hearing the word of God, and he went with me; but he seeing me secure for a while, takes another journey, and that was about 90 Miles into *Warwick-shire*, by the way he went to an *Vnkle* of his, my Wifes brother, to whom he gives an account, that he had taken that journie in hand on purpose to him, that he would be pleased to be instrumental to his Father on his behalf, that he might be placed out; he writ to me concerning it; I writ to him, it was my resolution as soon as I had an *Apprentice*, to provide for him; so after many Letters had passed betwixt us, he was perswaded to return again to me; and after some stay with me, he goeth away again on a *Sabbath* day some 5 mile off, but returned again of himself; and indeed all this while *I* was unprovided of a Boy, for I could not hear of one till this last Summer but we not liking each other, we parted; and I have another Boy; since his coming, *I* had a resolution to enquire out a *Master* for his going to *Sea*, as soon as the Boy was bound.

After

About *Bartholomew-tide* laſt, he committed a fault, and I reproveing him for it he ſeemed ſomewhat ſtubborn, and withall gave ſome words that I did not approve of; ſo I ſtruck him, he reſiſted again and ſtruck me, which did increaſe my paſſion, and cauſed me to correct him ſeverely, ſo to be clear of me he crieth out Murder, at which noiſe ſome Neighbours came in, and when they underſtood that he had been ſo diſobedient as to ſtrike his Father, they very much blamed him. So I held him faſt till I ſaw that he was ſomewhat abated in his ſtubborneſs, and then let him looſe, and did treat him with mild words. At laſt he became quieter, and in few dayes after asked me leave to go to the Fair, I granted it: And when *Southwark* Fair came; he deſired me to give him leave to go thither alſo: At which deſire of his, I was much troubled he ſhould not be ſatisfied with the former Liberty I had given him at *Bartholomew-tide*. But he continuing his requeſt ſtill to me, at laſt I did grant he ſhould go; though not very willing. So on *Wedneſday* in the Afternoon the 20. of *September* 1671. He went into *Southwark* Fair, and found it to be a dirty place, did not like it, but goes in to ſee a play: And when he come forth of the place, he walked about in it a little, but took no delight in it, and was troubled that he ſhould come to ſee it. He returns to came homewards, and upon *London*-Bridge in the open place, he makes a ſtand, looking towards the Tower, upon the Boats and Ships, and leaning upon the place, there were two Boyes came and ſtood by him, one on

his left Hand, the leſſer of them puts forth a Riddle and ſaith tell me what is this, that flyes as ſwift as an Arrow out of a Bow, and carries his Bridle under his Tail, this was a Ship under Sail, there was a man that ſtood by him on his right hand and he turned himſelf toward the Sun; and ſaid to my Sonn before the Sun be down, that ſhall be tyed that was never tyed before, and before the Morrow Sun be down, that ſhall be looſe that was never tyed before. One of the Boyes being very earneſt with the Man, ſaith, I pray you Sir, tell me the meaning of this, but he would not. So the Boyes went away towards *Southwark*, the Man and my Sonn ſtaid at the ſame place, the Man ſaith to him, it was a fine thing to be a Traveller, and my Sonn ſaith to him, I hope I ſhall go very ſuddenly to Sea, and he ſaith to him, have you your Friends conſent, Yes ſaith he? The Man ſaith to him he would not have him go to Sea, for if he did, he would have a great fit of ſickneſs naming the Flux, and that would coſt him his life. Saith he, why ſhall I be any more ſick than any body elſe? It would be ſo, how do you know it? He ſaid he knew it very well. If you do go, the Ship and all the Men, ſhall go ſafe to the place where it was to go, and ſhould all come home ſafe again, only he was excepted, for it ſhould coſt him his life. He asked him whether he did believe him, he ſaith, no, he did not believe him, nor would not, but he would go to Sea, he endeavoured to perſwade him to live in *London*, and it ſhould be

well

well for him, and my Sonn ſaith, hang *London*, I will go and Travel. So when my Sonn takes his leave of the Man upon the Bridg, he puts off his Hat in a jearing and deriding way, and ſaith unto him, I thank you for your good Councel, but in his Heart at that time he did not intend to take his Councel; and ſo parts from him, and he thought the Man had ſtayed there at the place where he parted from him. So my Sonn coming homewards, and when he came juſt to the Corner of *Thames-ſtreet* the Man overtook him, and ſaith, no further yet? And he ſaith, no, ſo my Sonne ſeeing of him and ſpeaking to him of a ſudden, was affraid, and he ſaith be not affraid, I will do you no harm. So the Man turns with him at the Corner, and after turns with him into St. *Michaels* Lane, that comes into *Crooked* Lane, and ſo into *Cannon* Street. The Man was ſpeaking what a fine place this City was, if it were all built and inhabited, and that the building in it was more ſtately than thoſe of *Paris*, and in other Countries. When he drew near to *Queens*-ſtreet Corner, they had ſome Diſcourſe, but cannot remember what thoſe words were at preſent; but he told the Man he was a Lyer. The Man was a little before him, and goes over the Kennel, at the end of *Queens*-ſtreet, as though he would have gone along *Watling*-ſtreet. My Sonne turns up at the Corner of *Queens*-ſtreet, and begins to run away from the Man, and preſently had a great pain took him in the Calves of his Leggs: So that it forced him to ſtand ſtill:

and ſtooping down to feel on his right Legg that moſt pained him, he looks over his left ſhoulder, and ſeeing the man gone he was glad he had loſt his Company, and caſt his Eye on his right Hand, there the Man was come even with him, and ſeeing him, he was afraid. The Man ſaid, be not afraid ſo they come up that Street, and croſſed over to the other ſide of the way, but he kept as it were a looſ off from the Man. But when they drew near to come into *Cheapſide*, the Man ſtep before him, and takes him by the Cloak, and ſaith unto him, be not afraid, do you believe what I have ſaid unto you. My Sonn anſwered, no, I do not believe you, nor I will not believe you what you ſay, Do you not remember that *Zacharias* wear ſtruck dumb, naming that it was in the firſt Chapter of *Luke*, my Son ſaith, I do remember there is ſuch a place, but that was, becauſe he did not believe the Angel that told him what ſhould come to paſs, and he ſaid, it may be ſo with you, and he ſaid to the man, are you an Angel, ſo the man gave him no anſwer, and broke off that diſcourſe, and came towards Cheap-ſide, and when my Son parted from the man and began to come homewards, he heard the man ſay, it ſhall be ſo. So my Son turned back to have called to him, but could not ſpeak, and ſtood at the corner looking after the man, and ſaw him turn at the corner the ſame way as they came together. So the man being out of ſight he turned now to come home towards his Fathers houſe. I do verily believe my Sons Heart was full

of

of ſorrow, and how to declare it he could not then, ſtill he was troubled that he ſhould anſwer the man in ſuch a ſcornful and deriding way, and that he ſhould anſwer him ſo thwartingly. So he came home to me about five a clock, and I being buiſy in the ſhop I ſaid nothing to him, but I wondred he came home ſo ſoon, but he went directly up ſtairs into the Kitchin, the Maid being there he looks about him, as though it was ſome ſtrange place unto him, Saith the Maid to him *Thomas*, methinks you have made great haſt home; he ſat down by the Table and ſtruck his hand twice upon it, ſhe ſaith *Thomas*, how do you do? are you not well? what makes you ſo heavy? have you had an ill day to day? you did uſe to ſpeak to us when you came in? what is the matter with you? now his Siſter hearing the Maid urging of him to ſpeak, ſhe ſaid to him, brother, will you not ſpeak to us? I coming into the room ſeeing him lean on his elbow, bearing his head up with his hand, I thought he had been weary with his walk. I ſaid unto him, can you find nothing to do? muſt you ſit ſtill? go down and help the boy to ſhut up the ſhop, and as I ſpoke he went down, knowing nothing of his being dumb: He helped the boy to ſhut up the ſhop, his ſiſter being there, ſaid to him, brother, hath any body met with you, and cut out your tongue? he turning towards her, put forth his tongue, and made ſigns to the boy with his hand for a pen and ink. The boy comes up ſtairs to me, and ſaith, I think *Thomas* hath loſt his tongue, preſently cometh up again, and ſaith, Maſter, I think *Thomas* hath

hath loſt his tongue: his ſiſter cometh up alſo, Father, I think my brother hath loſt his tongue: I ſat ſtill by the fire, and none of theſe meſſengers did move me, I thought he was not minded to ſpeak to them. But the Maid going down of her own accord, ſaith to him, *Thomas*, why will you not ſpeak to us? you will make your Father angry, tell us, what is the matter with you? he was then writing in a piece of paper, and turns that paper to her, wherein was writ theſe words; I cannot ſpeak, and ſhaked his head. Whereat ſhe was much troubled, and coming up ſaith to me, I fear all is not well with *Thomas*: Hearing of this it ſtruck me to the heart, then I went down to him, and laid my hand upon his head, and ſaid, Child, how doſt thou do? he turnes a paper to me, wherein was writ, I cannot ſpeak. I was greatly amazed, and affrighted: his hand moved towards his Heart, he ſhoke his head, his countenance was exceeding ſad, his tears ran down from his Eyes: Theſe all gave in their Teſtimonies, that they were ſorrowing for the ſad Condition that had befaln him. Methinks, I have the ſight thereof allwayes in my Eyes, in my thoughts, and on my Heart, Hand, Head, Countenance and Tears, theſe all have a loud and ſpeaking voice: And often ſince he was dumb, it draweth Tears from mine Eyes. I caſting my Eyes upon his Paper the ſecond time, I ſaw he had writ underneath thoſe former words, I cannot ſpeak, ſpeak you and I can underſtand. So when I ſaw them, I ſaid unto him, Child, give me an account, where you have been ſince you went

went out, and who you have been withal, and he then did give me an account to this Effect, but ſince, he hath given me a larger account, as the Lord hath brought thoſe things into his mind. The next day as I was reading by him in the Afternoon, the window being open, he caſt his Eyes upon the Sun, very earneſtly for a time; I thought he might have been affected with what I was reading off, but he was only viewing of the Sun as he confeſt afterwards, He immediately pulleth out his Ink-horne and began to write, but could not proceed for looking on the Sun; the Maid obſerving, that his Lipps did move much, and lifted up his Hands, ſhe beckoned to me to obſerve him, what he was a doing; I roſe up, to look in his Face, his Back being towards me, but turning about I ſaw tears running very faſt from his Eyes, I took him in my Arms; and ſaid unto him, be not caſt down, at what time thou art afraid, truſt in God, as *David* ſaith, in the 56. *Pſalm* the Third Verſe, *I found much comfort in theſe words, who among you that feareth the Lord and obeyeth the voice of his Servant, that walketh in darkneſs and hath no light, let him truſt in the name of the Lord, and ſtay upon his God*, in the 50. of Iſaiah 10. verſe, While my Sonn was ſtill weeping he Coughed three times, and at the laſt time ſomething gave a jerk, as though it had been the breaking of a ſtring, which hurt him a little. Whereupon, his Tongue was looſed, and he ſpake, and ſaid, bleſſed be God, I can ſpeak, and then he told to me what the Man ſaid to him on *London*-Bridge, That before the Sun be down, that ſhall be

be tyed that was never tyed before, and before the Morrow Sun be down that ſhall be looſe that was never tyed before. This was remembred by him not above half an hour before he ſpake. My Sonn ſaith, the man ſaid he was a Seaman, he was a man of a middle Stature, his Clothes under his Coat was of a ſad colourd Silk watered, a ſad colour Cloath Coat with Gold Buttons, with a Crevait plain, twice about his Neck, a Cain in his Hand with a ſilver Head, and a Sword by his ſide.

Thus Reader, I have taken care to make good my promiſe to thee, that I would declare the truth and nothing but the truth, the Lord give a bleſſing that it might find warm entertainment in thy heart, as it hath done in mine, the Lord work it powerfully upon every ſoul in my Family, for he only bringeth light out of darkneſs, and good out of evil, as I can experience it at this day, for thou art a Wonder-working God.

My Sonn hath ſaid unto me, if he had not been ſtruck dum, he would never have told me any thing what this Man had ſaid unto him, but he would have gone to Sea. But ſince the Lord hath been pleaſed to give him his ſpeech, he hath ſaid, he will not now go to Sea, for he hath ſeen the Hand of the Lord hath been againſt him in a wonderfull manner.

FINIS.